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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the representatives of Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We recommend that the matter be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration during the main part of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to the present letter.

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Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations

• Reissued for technical reasons.

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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The proposed item reflects the need to address the important issue of ensuring a sound financial base for United Nations peacekeeping activities.

The United Nations current ad hoc system for apportioning expenses for United Nations peacekeeping operations was negotiated over eight days in 1973 for a single six-month, $30 million peacekeeping mission in the Sinai. The Member States agreed unanimously at the time that the ad hoc scale would not set a precedent, and would not operate as a long-term mechanism for determining peacekeeping contributions. Yet the scale has not been updated since its inception. With peacekeeping expenses increasing rapidly at this time, a firm financial and operational foundation for these activities is essential. This year, the United Nations peacekeeping budget is slated to more than double, and will approach $3 billion.

The General Assembly has repeatedly expressed concern regarding the ad hoc peacekeeping scale methodology. In October 1989 and again in September 1992 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine "anomalies" in the apportionment provided for by the ad hoc peacekeeping scale. The Member States should now embark on a thorough consideration of how to ensure that the peacekeeping scale of assessments can support current and future peacekeeping activities. This consideration should also include a discussion of operational reforms needed to strengthen peacekeeping and thereby make the best use of the peacekeeping resources. The Millennium Assembly provides a timely opportunity to address this critical issue.

In view of the Fifth Committee's expertise in budgetary and financial matters, it is the most appropriate forum to consider this issue. We request that the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and allocated to the Fifth Committee.